

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-20 are pending. Claims 1-20 are rejected. Claims 1-7, 9, and 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1 as lacking enablement. Claims 8, 10, and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,644,532 to George, et al. (hereinafter “George”). Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over George in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,023,873 to Stevenson, et al. (hereinafter “Stevenson”). By this amendment, claims 1, 8, 9, and 15-20 are amended. Claim 4 is canceled. No new claims are added. No new matter is added. Reconsideration and allowance is requested.

Claim 1 is amended to recite the step of “creating a plurality of tuples for a topology of a network” in place of the current step of “converting....” Claim 1 is rejected under section 112 for lacking enablement for the term “converting.” Applicant respectfully disagrees with the examiner’s assertion that the term “converting” lacks enablement. The converting process is described with respect to Figures 18a-b, also referred to as the “morph topo” phase of the process. However, the above amendments replace the term “converting” in favor of the step of “creating” to more particularly claim the invention. Support for this amendment is found, for example, on pages 16-17 of the specification and in Figures 17 and 18a-b. As amended, claim 1 overcomes the section 112 rejection. Reconsideration is requested.

Claim 1 is further amended to define the tuples as comprising “a host identifier, interface information, and a port specification.” As amended, claim 1 overcomes the cited references. The cited references do not teach or suggest a tuple containing these items. As amended, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-3, and 5-7 depend from claim 1 and for this reason and the other limitations they recite, are also allowable.

Claim 4 is hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 8 has been amended to recite that the tuples comprise “a host identifier, interface information, and a port specification” and that the system compares new tuples with the existing topology by “comparing the host identifiers, the interface information, and the port specifications.” The cited references do not teach or suggest these particular elements of the tuple. Nor do the cited references teach or suggest comparing these elements to identify changes to the network topology. In contrast, George monitors data in the topology database

by monitoring the weights of the data and by comparing time references for the data. As amended, claim 8 is allowable. Claims 9-14 depend from claim 8 and for this reasons and the other limitations they recite are also allowable. Reconsideration is requested.

Claim 15 is amended to recite that the method performs the step of “creating a plurality of tuples for a topology of a network” in place of the current step of “converting....” Claim 15 is rejected under section 112 for lacking enablement for the term “converting.” Applicant respectfully disagrees with the examiner’s assertion that the term “converting” lacks enablement. The converting process is described with respect to Figures 18a-b, also referred to as the “morph topo” phase of the process. However, the above amendments replace the term “converting” in favor of the step of “creating” to more particularly claim the invention. Support for this amendment is found, for example, on pages 16-17 of the specification and in Figures 17 and 18a-b. As amended, claim 15 overcomes the section 112 rejection. Reconsideration is requested.

Claim 15 is further amended to define the tuples as comprising “a host identifier, interface information, and a port specification.” As amended, claim 15 overcomes the cited references. The cited references do not teach or suggest a tuple containing these items. Claim 15 is further amended to clarify that the “updating” step is based on the “comparing” step. As amended, claim 15 is allowable. Claims 16-20 depend from claim 15 and for this reason and the other limitations they recite, are also allowable.

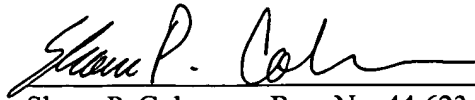
Claims 16-20 are also amended for reasons unrelated to patentability to make clear that claims 16-20 are dependent claims to a medium rather than a method. As amended, claims 16-20 are allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully asserts that the application is in condition for allowance. The above amendments should generate no additional fees. However, if any such fees are necessary, the Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency associated with this communication to Deposit Account 04-1420. Prompt reexamination and allowance of claims 1-3, and 5-20 is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shane P. Coleman", written over a horizontal line.

Shane P. Coleman, Reg. No. 44,623

DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP

125 Bank Street, Suite 600

Missoula, MT 59802-4407

Tel. (406) 721-6025

Fax (406) 543-0863